

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Bresnan Communications Black Horse Lake Road fiber optic
Proposed Implementation Date:	11/10/2011
Proponent:	Bresnan Communications, 1111 Steward Ave., Bethpage, New York 11714
Location:	SWSW sec. 33, T22N, R4E
County:	Cascade
Trust:	Capitol Buildings Trust

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

A construction Land Use License to facilitate installation of buried fiber optic line adjacent to existing County road, while review and evaluation of permanent utility easement takes place.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

None - directly. Original plans was to bury line along and within the state highway R/W. Review of that option by the proponent indicated concerns due to the periodic inundation of the area by Black Horse Lake.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None. Cascade County has an easement for a roadway known as the Black Horse Lake Road. The proposed installation would be adjacent to the county road easement.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No action until easement application is received.

Proposed action, approval a construction Land Use License to facilitate installation before the ground freezes, with easement application and review to take place this winter.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

No issues. There is a county road and an easement to 3 Rivers Communications (for their buried line) at this location already, with no soils issues.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

None. There may have been issues if the installation had taken place within the State Highway R/W through Black Horse Lake, but shifting the proposal to area adjacent to the Black Horse Lake County road avoids that area.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Some minimal dust production can be expected during most line burying operations, though this would be less probable this late in the fall.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Some minimal vegetation trampling by the heavy equipment plowing in the line. Licensee would be responsible for seeding and revegetation of any disturbed areas.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Minimal potential for effects adjacent to the country road.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

None

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Site has previous disturbances from the County road construction and line burial by 3 Rivers Communications. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects expected.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

There would be no adverse aesthetical effects from a buried line adjacent to a county road.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

None

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

No effects anticipated

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

No effects to these commercial activities.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The line would be buried somewhere, so no effects to jobs of employment would occur.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

No measurable effects.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

No added demands for government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

No local plans in this area.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The tract is legally accessible. However, special lease sites are categorically excluded from recreational use. The Big Sky R/C Modelers, Inc. lease this tract and have a model air plane facility in the site. Their lease covers the full 160 acres of the S2S2, so recreation, other than RC model airplane recreation, is not allowed under the

recreational use rules. The burial of a line adjacent to the county road, where another utility already has a buried line, would not affect the Big Sky R/C modeler's lease.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

No effects

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No effects

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

No effects

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Approval of the Construction license would provide income to a relatively small trust, the Capitol Buildings Trust, while permitting installation operations before freeze up this winter. An easement, if approved by the Land Board, would provide additional income. Income would be small, since the potentially affected acreage for a buried utility is small. The other utility easement along the county road only occupies 0.28 acres.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: D.J. Bakken	Date: 11/8/2011
	Title: Helena Unit Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

I have selected the alternative to issue a construction Land Use License for this project. Additional review will be completed when an easement application is submitted, with a separate decision at that time.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Review indicates minimal potential for effects or adverse impacts from the burial of a fiber optic line adjacent to an existing county road easement.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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EIS

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More Detailed EA

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No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Gavin Anderson
	Title: Central Land Office Forest & Lands Program Manager
Signature:	
Date:	11/10/2011



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